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050224Z May 03

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 COLOMBO 000740

SIPDIS

FOR ECA/PE/V/F/A, ECA/PE/V/G/N-ALICE SHIFFLETT; SA/PD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [OEXC](#)

SUBJECT: FY-2003 VOLUNTARY VISITOR PROGRAM: SRI LANKAN  
NOMINATION

1. PAS COLOMBO REQUESTS FOR A FUNDED VOLVIS (TWO INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING TOGETHER - ITT) PROGRAM ON CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS. POST NOMINATES MR. NAUFEL ABDUL-RAHMAN, SECRETARY TO THE LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND MR. N.V. KEERTHIRATNE KARUNASENA WERAGODA, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET OF MINISTERS, FOR PARTICIPATION IN A 10-DAY VOLUNTARY VISITOR PROGRAM ON CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS PROJECT CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR PROGRAMMING. THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING IN LATE MAY (ANYTIME AFTER MAY 18) OR EARLY JUNE, AND COULD ARRANGE THEIR TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY.

2. THE NOMINEES' BIO DATA, JUSTIFICATION AND PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS IN EVDB FORMAT FOLLOWS:

START FIXED-FORMAT TEXT (PLEASE DO NOT EDIT):  
: The following data is in a fixed format which enables  
: automated processing in Washington and should not be  
: edited except by means of the Post-EVDB software.  
EXPORT-SOURCE: POST-EVDB  
VERSION: 3.0.5  
POST-EMAIL: rscmb@pd.state.gov  
TRANSMITTING-POST: PAS Colombo  
TRANSMITTING-POST-ID: 2929  
EXPORT-TYPE: BIO DATA  
START NOMINATION:  
ECA-OFFICE: E/VGN  
PROG-AGENCY-NAME:  
POST-PROJ-ID: 80  
ECA-PROJ-NO:  
PROJ-NAME: Single Country - Voluntary Visitors -  
Congressional Committee System  
START MEMO PROJ-DESC:

END MEMO PROJ-DESC:  
PROJ-TYPE: Single Country Project  
PROG-TYPE: IV Grant Visitor  
FY: 2003  
DEPART-POST: 06/16/2003  
SESSION-DATE:  
RETURN-POST: 06/29/2003  
NO-OF-PART: 2  
RANK-ORDER: 0  
START MEMO POST-OBJ:  
This nomination is in support of MPP goal "Democracy"  
END MEMO POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO POST-RCMD:

Post requests a 10-day volvis program for two high-level government officials visiting the U.S. for observation and consultation on the U.S. Congressional committee system. Since the Sri Lankan government is considering strengthening the Parliamentary committee post believes that the the nominees should be provided with the opportunities to observe how congressional committees are set-up and work in both federal and state levels.

The nominees could begin the program in Washington visiting U.S Congress Committee Offices and later visit Committee Offices in a State Legislature (possibly Albany, NY). If approved, the two nominees will be available for programming for ten days from May 19 to mid or late June.

This request is for a 10-day funded (Per diem and internal travel) volvis grants for two nominees.

END MEMO POST-RCMD:  
ECA-OFFICE-ID: 1039  
PROG-AGENCY-ID:  
PROJ-TYPE-ID: SCP  
PROG-TYPE-ID: 29  
NOMINATING-POST-ID: 2929  
FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:  
STATUS: N  
ORIGINATOR: P  
SUBJ-DISC: Federalism/U.S. Government  
START BIO:  
PREFIX: Mr.

F-NAME: N.V.Keerthiratne  
M-NAME: Karunasena  
L-NAME: WERAGODA  
SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 114  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Office of the Cabinet of Ministers  
M-ADDR2: Republic Square  
M-ADDR3: Sir Baron Jayatilaka Mawatha  
M-CITY: Colombo 1  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
M-ZONE:  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: (94-1) 329-620  
M-FAX: (94-1) 323-730  
M-EMAIL: keewera@sltnet.lk  
M-CNTRY-ID: CE  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: M  
DOB: 11/20/1937  
MAR-STAT: M  
BIRTH-CITY: Induruwa  
BIRTH-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
CITIZ-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
RES-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers, December 2001-

SIPDIS  
to date  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
1998-2001 - Chairman and Director in several companies  
in the private sector  
1997- Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Councils and  
Local Government  
1995-96 - Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Commerce and  
Food  
1994 - Secretary, Ministry of Finance  
1992-93 - Secretary, Education, Higher Education and  
Cultural Affairs  
1988-91 - Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic  
Resources  
1982-87 - Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural  
Development and Research  
1978-79 - Government Agent, Matara  
1974-77 - Government Agent, Hambantota  
1971-73 - Additional Government Agent, Matara  
1969-70 - Deputy General Manager, River Valleys  
Development Board  
1965-68 - Assistant Government Agent  
1960-64 - Divisional Revenue Officer

END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
1981 - As Mason Fellow of the Kennedy School of  
Government, Harvard University  
1982-97 - Several visits to World Bank and IMF to  
negotiate projects while serving as Secretary in the  
different ministries  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
Germany, India, Malaysia and the Philippines - On  
several occasions for official conferences  
Paris, France - On several occasions to UNESCO as head  
of official delegation  
London, U.K. - 1980-81- For studies at Cambridge  
University; and the Commonwealth Secretariat on several  
occasions as head of official delegation  
Rome, Italy - Several visits to attend meetings in FAO  
and World Food Program  
Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island - 1982 - as  
chairman of consultative group on Agriculture  
Japan - 1975 (six months) - Scholarship offered by  
JAICA

END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
B.A. University of Ceylon , 1959  
Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies, Cambridge  
University, U.K., 1981  
M.A. in Public Administration, Harvard University, 1982  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
Member, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of  
Science  
Member, Wildlife and Nature Protection Society  
Member, Economic Society of Sri Lanka  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
'The Progress of Rural Agriculture since Independence'  
in Business Today, December 1998  
'Internal Trade in Sri Lanka,' chapter on Internal

Trade contributed to the National Atlas, 1997  
'Importance of English to the Youths to Meet the Modern  
Day Challenges' - 1993  
'Agricultural Research Systems and Management,' in Sri  
Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy  
publication - 1987  
'Agricultural Plans and Policy for Nutritional Adequacy  
in Sri Lanka' - paper prepared for FAO, 1986  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: Sinhala  
ENGL-READ: 4  
ENGL-SPEAK: 4  
ENGL-COMP: 4  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
This nomination is in support of MPP goal on  
"Democracy"  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

Post requests a 10-day volvis program for two high-  
level government officials visiting the U.S. for  
observation and consultation on the U.S. Congressional  
committee system. Since the Sri Lankan government is  
considering strengthening the Parliamentary committee  
post believes that the nominees should be provided with  
the opportunities to observe how congressional  
committees are set-up and work in both federal and  
state levels.

The nominees could begin the program in Washington  
visiting U.S Congress Committee Offices and later visit  
Committee Offices in a State Legislature (possibly  
Albany, NY). If approved, the two nominees will be  
available for programming for ten days from May 19 to  
mid or late June.

This request is for a 10-day funded (Per diem and  
internal travel) volvis grants for two nominees.

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
Visitors objectives are to fully understand the working  
of committee system in the U.S. Congress and State  
Legislatures.  
END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Bruce A. Lohof  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

Mr. Weragoda is a senior officer of the Sri Lanka  
Administrative Service, who has held important  
positions previously. He is now the Secretary to the  
Office of the Cabinet of Ministers, one of the most  
important offices in the government.  
The present government is desirous in introducing an  
effective committee system in the House of Parliament.  
Mr. Weragoda, along with Mr. Rahman who is the Secretary  
to the Leader of the House of Parliament, have been  
entrusted with the task of observing similar  
institutions and make recommendation for strengthening  
and improving the functions of Parliamentary  
committees. Since U.S. Congressional committees are  
considered in high esteem Mr. Weragoda who has a wealth  
of experience in governmental affairs would be an ideal  
candidate for a voluntary visitor program on the  
congressional committee system.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
NOM-OFF: Public Affairs Section  
SPEAKER?: Yes  
NOTIFY-EMB: Yes  
MEDIA?: No  
HOME-STAY: No  
HOME-HOSP?: Yes  
E-I-TYPE:  
NOMINEE-ID: 114  
PERSON-ID: 116  
BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: CE  
CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: CE  
RES-CNTRY-ID: CE  
FIRST-LANG-ID: SI  
E-I-TYPE-ID:  
NOM-POST-ID: 2929  
NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:  
NOM-STATUS: N  
DS2019-ACTION: 1  
DS2019-SUBJECT: 45.1001  
SPONS-FUNDS: 0  
SPONS-AGENCY1:  
USGOVT-AGENCY1:  
US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:  
US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0  
INTL-ORG1:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0  
INTL-ORG2:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0  
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0  
COMMISSION: 0  
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-CAT: 5  
END BIO:  
START BIO:  
PREFIX: Mr.  
F-NAME: Naufel  
M-NAME:  
L-NAME: ABDUL-RAHMAN  
SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 114  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Office of the Leader of the House of  
M-ADDR2: Parliament  
M-ADDR3: Sri Jayewardenepura  
M-CITY: Kotte  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
M-ZONE:  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: (94-1) 777-463  
M-FAX: (94-1) 777-464  
M-EMAIL: lhpsec@slt.lk  
M-CNTRY-ID: CE  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: M  
DOB: 06/04/1944  
MAR-STAT: M  
BIRTH-CITY: Colombo  
BIRTH-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
CITIZ-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
RES-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Secretary to the Leader of the House of Parliament,

SIPDIS  
2002- to date  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
1994-2001 - Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition  
in Parliament  
1992-94 - Director/Legal Consultant, Associated  
Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd.  
1992-93 - Chairman, Petroleum Compensation Tribunal  
1984-94 - Reverted to the Bar and practised in the  
Civil Section  
1982-85 - Commissioner, Presidential Tariff Commission  
1978-84 - Chairman and Chief Executive, Industrial  
Development Board  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
1993 - International Visitor  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
Switzerland, Geneva - 1989 - Sri Lanka Delegate to the  
General Conference of ILO  
Australia - 1985 - Member, Sri Lanka Delegation to  
study the workings of the Australian Tariff Board  
France, Paris - 1983 - Sri Lanka Delegate to the  
General Conference of UNESCO  
Austria, Vienna - 1981 - Sri Lanka Delegate to the  
General Conference of UNIDO  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
Bachelor of Laws, University of Ceylon  
Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon (Sri Lanka)  
Diploma in Business Administration, University of  
Colombo  
Fellow of the British Institute of Management, England  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
Member, Bar Association of Sri Lanka  
Member, British Institute of Management  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
'Is Small Beautiful,' in 'Karmantha' April 1980  
'Industrial Growth - Vertical or Lateral,' in  
'Karmantha' December 1980

END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: Tamil  
ENGL-READ: 4

ENGL-SPEAK: 4  
ENGL-COMP: 4  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Sinhala  
OTHER-LANG-ID: SI  
READ: 4  
SPEAK: 4  
COMP: 4  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
This project is in support of MPP goal on "Democracy"  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

Post requests a 10-day volvis program for two high-level government officials visiting the U.S. for observation and consultation on the U.S. Congressional committee system. Since the Sri Lankan government is considering strengthening the Parliamentary committee post believes that the the nominees should be provided with the opportunities to observe how congressional committees are set-up and work in both federal and state levels.

The nominees could begin the program in Washington visiting U.S Congress Committee Offices and later visit Committee Offices in a State Legislature (possibly Albany, NY). If approved, the two nominees will be available for programming for ten days from May 19 to mid or late June.

This request is for a 10-day funded (Per diem and internal travel) volvis grants for two nominees.

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
Visitors objectives are to fully understand the working of committee system in the U.S. Congress and State Legislatures.  
END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Bruce A. Lohof  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

Although Mr. Abdul-Rahman is an Attorney-at-law, he has been in politics closely associated with the ruling United National Party (UNP) and the Parliament for a long time. During the time the present Prime Minister was the Leader of the Opposition he was the Secretary to him (the Leader of the Opposition). When the UNP came into power in 2001 Mr. Rahman was appointed the Secretary to the Leader of the House.

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The present government is desirous in introducing an effective committee system in the House of Parliament. Mr. Rahman has been entrusted with the task of observing similar institutions and make recommendation for strengthening and improving the functions of Parliamentary committees. Since U.S. Congressional committees are considered in high esteem, Mr. Rahman who has long experience in parliamentary affairs would be an ideal candidate for a voluntary visitor program on a familiarization of the congressional committee system.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: Public Affairs Section

SPEAKER?: Yes

NOTIFY-EMB: Yes

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: No

HOME-HOSP?: Yes

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 115

PERSON-ID: 118

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: CE

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: CE

RES-CNTRY-ID: CE

FIRST-LANG-ID: TC

E-I-TYPE-ID:

NOM-POST-ID: 2929

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:

NOM-STATUS: N

DS2019-ACTION: 1

DS2019-SUBJECT: 45.1001

SPONS-FUNDS: 0

SPONS-AGENCY1:

USGOVT-AGENCY1:

US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0

INTL-ORG1:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0

INTL-ORG2:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0  
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0  
COMMISSION: 0  
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-CAT: 5  
END BIO:  
END NOMINATION:  
END FIXED-FORMAT TEXT:

13. PLEASE ADVISE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE NOMINATIONS AND  
SUITABLE PROGRAM DATES ARE AVAILABLE.

WILLS